SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, April 20, 1995
Room BC-110, 10:30

Present: B. Anderson, P. Bird, T. Bui (Chair), D. Feldman, D. Gold, A.B. Ibrahim, P. Lightbown, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, T. Stathopoulos (rep. S. Suen) , J. Tomberlin

Regrets: E. Besso, K. Lipke

Absent: E. Abouheif, P. Dalton, J.F. Plamondon, R. Storms

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SRC-04-20-95-A	Agenda for the SRC Meeting of April 20, 1995
SRC-03-23-95-M	Minutes of the SRC Meeting of March 23, 1995
SRC-04-20-95-D1	Memo dated April 3, 1995 from Dr. T. Bui to Dr. R. Parker, Interim Vice-Rector, Academic, re: Establishment of an Office of the Vice-Rector, Academic Committee to Develop Policy on Copyright and Intellectual Property.
SRC-04-20-95-D2	Memo dated March 23, 1995 from Ms. M. Yates to Mr. J. Noonan, Secretary of Senate, re: CASA Funds - Motion which was unanimously approved by the Arts and Science Faculty Council.
SRC-04-20-95-D3	Memo dated March 21, 1995 from Mr. J.P. Duchesne to Mr. J. Noonan, Secretary of Senate, re: CASA Funds - Motion which was unanimously approved by the Fine Arts Faculty Council.
SRC-04-20-95-D4	Memo dated February 13, 1995 from Dr. T. Bui to the Deans, re: Faculty Planning and Priority Committees.
SRC-04-20-95-D5	Report on the activities of the Associate Vice-Rector, Academic (Research) (April 11, 1995).
SRC-04-20-95-D6	Memo dated April 7, 1995 from Dr. T. Bui to Dr. R. Parker, Interim Vice-Rector, Academic, re: Collective Agreement at UQAM.
SRC-04-20-95-D7	Various CREPUQ documents.
SRC-04-20-95-D8	Liste des organismes pourvoyeurs de fonds accrédités aux fins du financement des frais indirects de la recherche universitaire Fichier SIRU 1994-1995.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. Chair welcomed and thanked Dr. T. Stathopoulos for replacing Dr. C. Suen who was on a trip to China on behalf of NSERC.

1. Approval of Agenda (SRC-04-20-95-A)

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of March 23, 1995.

The Minutes for the March 23, meeting were approved.

3. Business arising from Minutes

The Chair remarked that he has written to Dr. R. Parker, Vice-Rector, Academic on both items 7.1 and 7.2.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair remarked that with respect to the CASA Funds, he has not received anything from the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science.

Chair noted that when the document entitled Report of the Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities was discussed at SCAPP, it was decided that the document be sent to Senate for information. The two documents related to the strategy for the enhancement of research at Concordia: the Enhancement of Research at Concordia University (US-91-2-D12) and the Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities (SCAPP 94-52-D1) will have to be taken into account in the planning process. In order to ensure that the planning process does take into consideration the recommendations, the Chair therefore decided to send these two documents to the Deans of the Faculties and their Planning and Priority Committees.

Chair remarked that after consultation with Dr. Hal Proppe, Interim Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Finance, Chair has proposed to Dr. R. Parker, Vice-Rector, Academic to send a memorandum to all Graduate Program Directors and researchers with respect to the payment of research grants to graduate students as bursaries. Effective April 1, 1995, it will no longer be possible to use research accounts to pay bursaries to graduate students. This decision applies to all research accounts, regardless of the source of funding.

4. Report of the Chair

SRC-04-20-95-D7 - CREPUQ documents: Document 95-CR-114-12 is a draft letter that was later signed and sent by Mr. Maurice St-Jacques, Chairman of Comité de la recherche of CREPUQ and Vice-Rector Research of Université de Montréal to Mr. H. Friesen, President of Medical Research Council (MRC) with regard to MRC's recent policy (Article 43 of the MRC Guide) which specified that research grants from the Council cannot be used to pay social benefits for research assistants/associates. Universities will have to find money to pay for these costs. For other granting councils such as SSHRC and NSERC, salaries and social benefits are allowable expenses. Québec universities are requesting MRC to reconsider this decision.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair reported that at the recommendation of the Sous-comité des directeurs de finances, the Comité de la recherche of CREPUQ asked the Sous-comité des conseillers juridiques for opinions related to: (a) the MRC policy (Articled 43 of the Guide) which prevents the use of MRC research funds to pay for social benefits of stagiaires de recherche and (b) the judicial procedures launched by McGill, Université de Montréal and Sherbrooke contesting the Revenue du Québec's notices asking the three universities to refund the costs of benefits related to the payment of research grants as bursaries. The Sous-comité des conseillers juridiques submitted the *"état de la situation"* which consists of the following points:

(a) The University of Sherbrooke, Université de Montréal and McGill were notified by Revenue du Québec in 1988, 1989 and 1990 respectively to reimburse the government the costs of benefits related to *"bourses virées à salaire"* over the previous few years. Recently, following judicial judgements in Montréal and Québec, the Ministère de Revenue has backed down and allowed the *"bourses versées à des étudiants de 2e et 3e cycle"* to be exempted but not other types of *"bourses virées à salaire"*.

(b) The Sous-comité des conseillers juridiques gave a definition of *"bourses nominatives"* and *"rénumération des stagiaires de recherche"* and concluded that the Ministère de Revenu's use of expressions such as *"bourses virées à salaire"* only confuses further the issue.

(c) The settlement between the 3 universities and Revenu du Québec should not hinder the wishes of the Comité de la recherche to intervene in the case of Article 43 of the MRC's guide.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

Dr. Erica Besso is in Québec City.

6. Question Period

None.

7 Politique des établissements universitaires du Québec relative aux frais indirects de la recherche subventionnée par des organismes not accrédités.

Chair noted that this document was approved by the Comité exécutif of the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ). The new CREPUQ policy means that Québec universities will now charge an indirect cost at the rate of 15% on all grants received from agencies which are not accredited by the Système d'information sur la recherche universitaire (SIRU). Chair has asked ORS to prepare the announcement and submitted the document to the Office of the Rector for discussion.

Document SRC-04-20-93-D8 is a list of accredited granting agencies by SIRU. Anybody who has a grant coming from any of these agencies, the government pays 15%, except for biomedical research, which brings in only 10%. The University plans to implement this new policy once details about its implementation are defined.

P. Bird said that he has no problem with this new policy but the complaints that he receives from the research community is that they do not see where the money goes afterwards.

7 Politique des établissements universitaires du Québec relative aux frais indirects de la recherche subventionnée par des organismes not accrédités.

It was suggested that certain percentage of that money has to go back to the research community to support the cost of infrastructure, for example in the case of equipment grant only the cost of equipment is born by the granting agencies, the University has to come up with the cost of installation. There are two ways for Concordia to come up with this commitment: one is that the commitment comes from the University and the money is put aside with the highest level of the University. The second way is to leave this commitment to the Faculties and certain part of this money should be channelled to them similar to overhead for contract research.

8. For information

9. Varia

The SRC members expressed their thanks to Ms. Joanne Beaudoin for her excellent service in the ORS. She will be leaving the department at the end of the month.

10. Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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